

## DEPARTMENT'S WEB PAGE SELECTED FOR NATIONAL FIRST PLACE AWARD

The Idaho Department of Labor was selected as national first place winner of the 2003 Labor Market Information (LMI) Communications Publication Award in August for providing an easy-to-understand explanation of the complex Davis-Bacon and Related Acts on its Internet website.

The National Association of State Workforce Agencies (NASWA) recognized the Department's "Davis Bacon Basics Step-by-Step" labor market information publication (found on-line at [www.jobservice.ws](http://www.jobservice.ws)). The award recognizes publications that provide quality information in the category of Electronic Product for Business Customers.

"Idaho's business community is fortunate to have the leadership of the Idaho Department of Labor to analyze and translate complex and critical economic and labor force data into easy-to-use information for business decision making," said Kate Cashen, NASWA's executive director.

The Davis-Bacon and Related Acts applies to contractors and subcontractors who are performing on federally funded or assisted contracts in excess of \$2,000 for the construction, alteration, or repair (including painting and decorating) to public buildings or public works. It requires those contractors and subcontractors to pay at least minimum wage—the *prevailing wage*—and fringe benefits to anyone working directly at the site. Davis-Bacon prevailing wages are determined by the U.S. Secretary of Labor and are based on wages and fringe benefits paid to laborers working on similar projects in the same area.

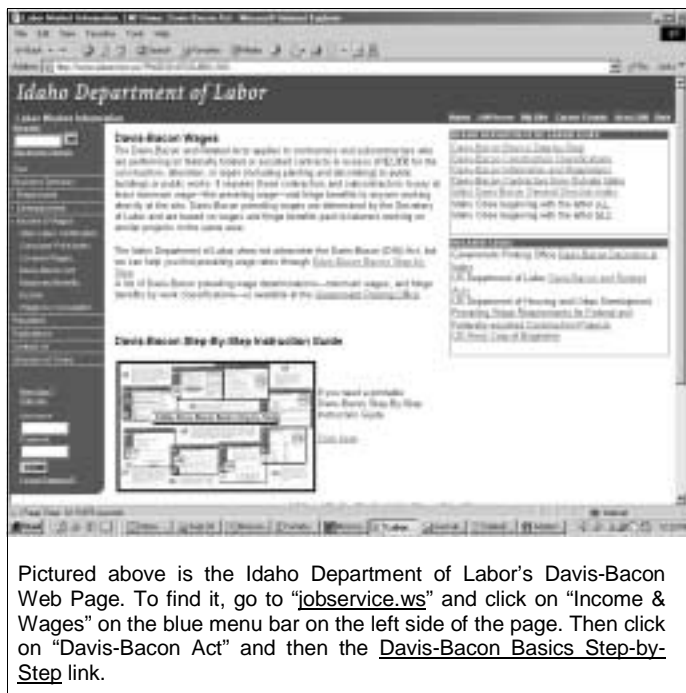
The Department produces the Idaho Employment & Wage Survey each year, making it the logical agency for contractors to consult when bidding on a job where they are required to pay the prevailing wage.

Prior to the development of the web page information, Department analysts were often frustrated when they were unable to help a customer with specific information about the Davis-Bacon requirements. The Davis-Bacon Basics Step-by-Step provides an electronic mechanism that allows a user to easily walk through, step-by-step, the Davis-Bacon wage determination process to determine the effective wage by construction type and area.

The web page is designed specifically for contractors bidding on federal jobs in Idaho, but contains links to valuable Davis-Bacon resources. There is also a link to aid out-of-state contractors who need information about

payroll taxes and who they can contact for more information.

"We are thrilled with this recognition of the outstanding work done by our Department staff," stated Roger Madsen, Director of the Idaho Department of Labor. He added, "LMI is the source for labor market information for the State of Idaho. Our customers can find economic information to help make informed decisions, whether the customer is an employer or a job seeker, a student or an economic analyst."



Pictured above is the Idaho Department of Labor's Davis-Bacon Web Page. To find it, go to "[jobservice.ws](http://www.jobservice.ws)" and click on "Income & Wages" on the blue menu bar on the left side of the page. Then click on "Davis-Bacon Act" and then the [Davis-Bacon Basics Step-by-Step](#) link.

The LMI Communication Publication Awards were created to encourage and support innovative Labor Market Information product development and education activities among the nation's workforce information partners. In order to qualify for this prestigious award, states must be able to exhibit exemplary efforts in the innovation, development, and dissemination of vital Labor Market Information.

Visit the Davis-Bacon Step-by-Step on Idaho's Internet Labor Market Information (LMI) website at [www.jobservice.ws](http://www.jobservice.ws). And tell your friends!

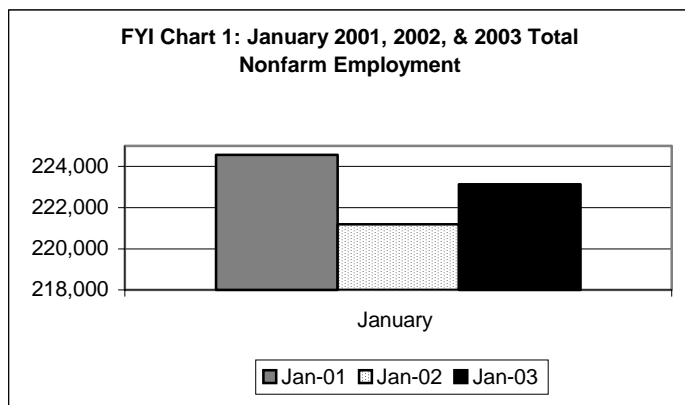
Cathy Bournier, Research Analyst, Senior  
E-mail: [cbournier@jobservice.us](mailto:cbournier@jobservice.us)  
317 W. Main Street, Boise, ID 83735  
(208) 332-3570, ext. 3203

## BOISE MSA TOTAL NONFARM EMPLOYMENT FIRST QUARTER 2003, 2002, & 2001

(Please note: First quarter 2003 data is preliminary.)

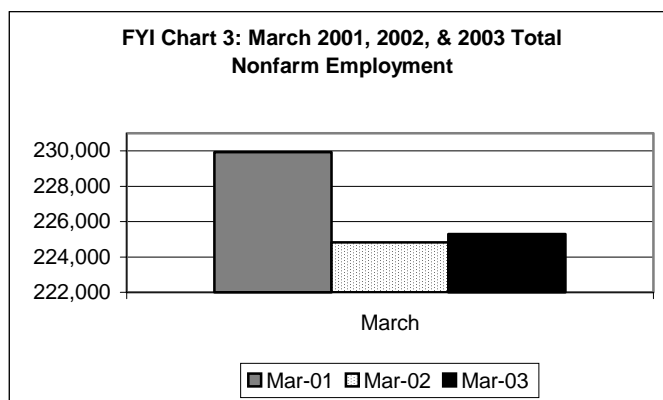
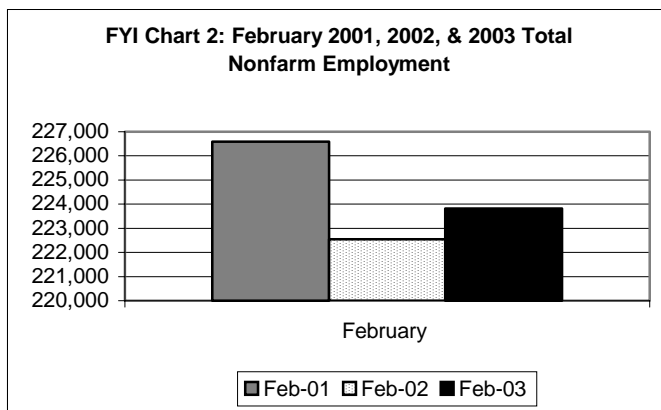
During the first quarter of 2003, total nonfarm employment in the Boise Metropolitan Statistical Area (MSA) recovered slightly from the first quarter of 2002. The first quarter of 2003 averaged 1,223 more jobs than in the first quarter of one year ago. In the first quarter of 2002, however, the Boise MSA's nonfarm employment totals were well below what they were in the first quarter of 2001. While the first quarter 2003 nonfarm employment is higher than in 2002, it is still lower than 2001.

The January 2003 total nonfarm employment level was 223,135. There were 1,937 more jobs in the Boise MSA economy in January 2003 than there were in January 2002. While this is a good yearly increase in employment between January 2002 and January 2003, it is still 1,429 less than the January 2001 total nonfarm figure of 224,564 jobs. FYI Chart 1 shows the total nonfarm employment figures for January 2001, 2002, and 2003.



The February 2003 nonfarm employment total showed an increase from the February 2002 figure of 1,262, for a total of 223,813 jobs. In February 2002, total nonfarm employment in the Boise MSA was 222,551, down from the February 2001 total of 226,593. While there was a good increase from February 2002 to 2003, there were still 2,780 fewer jobs in the Boise MSA economy than in February 2001. FYI Chart 2 shows the total nonfarm employment figures for February 2001, 2002, and 2003.

In March 2003 the increase in jobs from year-ago levels was not as large as in January and February of 2003. Total nonfarm employment in March 2003 was 225,291—only 471 more jobs than March 2002 and still 4,632 fewer jobs than in March 2001. In March 2002 total nonfarm



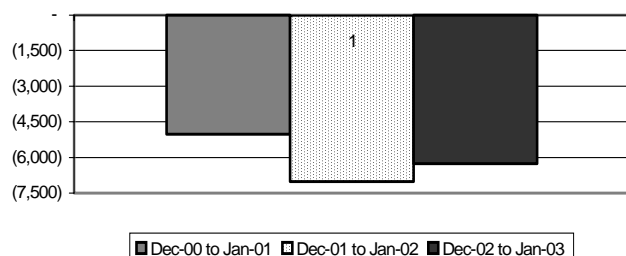
employment in the Boise MSA was 224,820, a decrease of more than 5,000 jobs from March 2001. FYI Chart 3 shows the total nonfarm employment figures for March 2001, 2002, and 2003.

Despite the increased total nonfarm employment in the Boise MSA in the first quarter of 2003 compared to the first quarter of 2002, the actual monthly increases in February and March were lower in 2003 than in 2002 and 2001, but the January 2003 employment drop was larger than in the previous two years. This scenario indicates a strong fourth quarter in 2002.

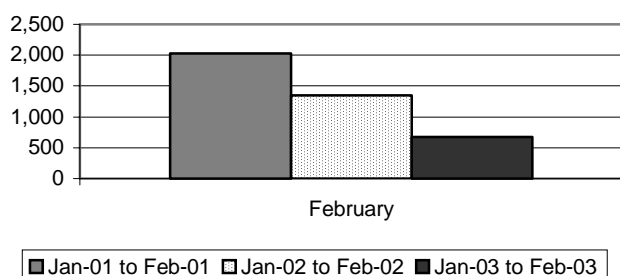
It is important to point out that the December to January employment decreases are related to seasonal factors. In January 2002 the Boise MSA lost 7,024 jobs from December 2001, which is 1,992 more than the 5,032 jobs that were lost in January 2001. In January 2003, employment declined by 7,288 jobs over the month—264 more jobs lost than in 2002. FYI Chart 4 on page 24 shows the employment declines from December to January in 2001, 2002, and 2003.

In February 2003, the usual increase in total nonfarm employment from January was less than in the previous two years. FYI Chart 5 on page 24 shows that the month-over-month employment increase in February

**FYI Chart 4: December to January Total Nonfarm Employment change in 2001, 2002, & 2003**



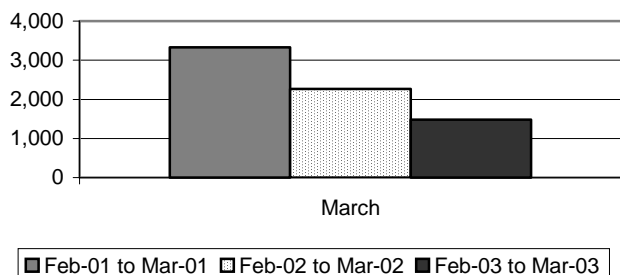
**FYI Chart 5: January to February Total Nonfarm Employment change in 2001, 2002, & 2003**



2003 was almost half of the increase of February 2002, and one-third of the January to February 2001 increase.

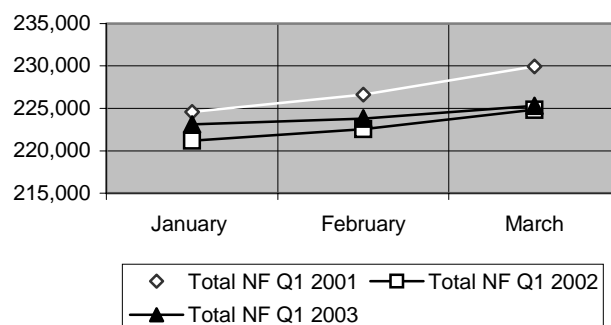
The Boise MSA nonfarm month-over-month employment increase from February to March 2003 was 1,478 jobs. This increase is 791 less than the increase from February to March 2002, which was 2,269 jobs—1,061 jobs less than the March 2001 increase of 3,330 jobs. Chart 6 shows the declining employment increases in the February to March time period for 2001, 2002, and 2003.

**FYI Chart 6: February to March Total Nonfarm Employment change in 2001, 2002, & 2003**



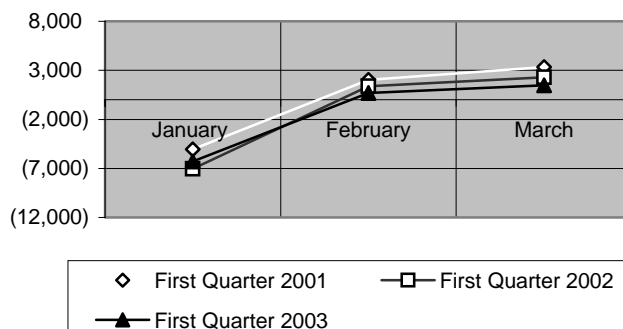
Total nonfarm employment in the Boise MSA was higher in each month of the first quarter of 2003 when compared to each month of the first quarter of 2002, but was lower than the first quarter of 2001. FYI Graph 1 shows total nonfarm employment for the first quarter in the Boise MSA for the 2001, 2002, and 2003.

**FYI Graph 1: Total Nonfarm Employment by Month First Quarter 2001, 2002, & 2003**



Employment in the first quarter of 2003 was higher than in the first quarter 2002, despite a larger employment loss in January and smaller monthly employment gains in February and March than were experienced in 2001 and 2002. FYI Graph 2 shows the monthly changes in employment for the first quarters of 2001, 2002, and 2003.

**FYI Graph 2: First Quarter 2001, 2002, & 2003 Monthly Change in Employment**



When second quarter 2003 data becomes available, a comparison to second quarter 2002 will show if total nonfarm employment levels in the Boise MSA have remained above the 2002 employment levels. If so, it could indicate a slight recovery is underway.

John Panter, Research Analyst, Senior  
E-mail: [jpanter@jobservice.us](mailto:jpanter@jobservice.us)  
317 W. Main Street, Boise, ID 83735  
(208) 332-3570, ext. 3201